

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 (cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A method of using aqueous paint, comprising:
coating onto at least one object aqueous paints having different colors;
collecting as excess paint, in accordance with a classification of said aqueous paints based on
identity of a combination of pigments contained in said aqueous paints and upon which said different
colors are based, said aqueous paints that are not coated onto said at least one object; ~~and~~
concentrating said excess paint so as to provide concentrated paint;
storing said concentrated paint, as stored concentrated paint, based on said identity of said
combination of pigments contained in said aqueous paints; and
reusing said ~~excess~~ stored concentrated paint,
wherein ~~when~~ said different colors are based upon the same combination of pigments, said
aqueous paints not coated onto said at least one object are collected together as said excess paint,
and said concentrated paint is stored together as said stored concentrated paint.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein
coating onto said at least one object aqueous paints having different colors includes, for each
of said aqueous paints, in a coating booth spraying onto said at least one object an aqueous paint
having a color that is a result of mixing at least two original color aqueous paints,
collecting as excess paint said aqueous paints that are not coated onto said at least one object
includes, for each of said aqueous paints,
(i) receiving in a water curtain, as over-spray paint, aqueous paint that is not sprayed
onto said at least one object, and
(ii) separating said over-spray paint from water of said water curtain, and
(iii) ~~concentrating said over-spray paint so as to provide concentrated paint, and~~
~~reusing said excess paint includes reusing said concentrated paint~~
concentrating said excess paint includes concentrating said over-spray paint.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein separating said over-spray paint from water of said water curtain and concentrating said over-spray paint includes using ultrafiltration equipment to separate said over-spray paint from said water of said water curtain and to concentrate said over-spray paint.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising: between (i) and (ii), receiving in a circulation water bath said over-spray paint and said water of said water curtain; and
removing said concentrated paint from a concentrated paint bath prior to reusing said stored concentrated paint.

wherein storing said concentrated paint comprises receiving said concentrated paint in a said concentrated paint bath; and removing said concentrated paint from said concentrated paint bath prior to reusing said concentrated paint.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, further comprising: prior to reusing said stored concentrated paint, using computer-color-matching equipment to determine a spectral reflection factor of said concentrated paint.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising: prior to reusing said stored concentrated paint, using said spectral reflection factor to prepare additional aqueous paint having a color that is based on the same combination of pigments as that of said stored concentrated paint.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, further comprising: while said concentrated paint is in said concentrated paint bath, preparing additional aqueous paint having a color that is based on the same combination of pigments as that of said concentrated paint.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein using ultrafiltration equipment to separate said over-spray paint from said water of said water curtain and to concentrate said over-spray paint results in said concentrated paint and a filtrate, said method further comprising:

~~when said different colors are based upon~~ coating another aqueous paint onto an object, with said another aqueous paint being based upon a different combination of pigments, by

- (i) stopping coating of ~~a first of~~ said aqueous paints onto said at least one object,
- (ii) washing said coating booth with said filtrate, and
- (iii) coating onto ~~one of said at least one object a second of~~ said another aqueous paints paint.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein ~~when said different colors are based upon the same combination of pigments,~~ collecting together as said excess paint said aqueous paints that are not coated onto said at least one object, concentrating said excess paint, and storing said concentrated paint comprises comprise using one system to collect said excess paint, concentrate said excess paint and store said concentrated paint.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein using one system to collect said excess paint, concentrate said excess paint and store said concentrated paint includes

- (i) receiving in a water curtain, as first over-spray paint, a first of said aqueous paints that is not sprayed onto said at least one object,
- (ii) receiving in a circulation water bath said first over-spray paint and water of said water curtain;
- (iii) using ultrafiltration equipment to separate said first over-spray paint from said water of said water curtain and to concentrate said first over-spray paint so as to provide first concentrated paint.
- ~~(iv) concentrating said first over-spray paint so as to provide first concentrated paint,~~
- ~~(v)~~ (iv) receiving said first concentrated paint in a concentrated paint bath,

(vi) (v) receiving in a water curtain, as second over-spray paint, a second of said aqueous paints that is not sprayed onto one of said at least one object,

(vii) (vi) receiving in said circulation water bath said second over-spray paint and water of said water curtain;

(viii) (vii) using said ultrafiltration equipment to separate said second over-spray paint from said water of said water curtain and to concentrate said second over-spray paint so as to provide second concentrated paint,

(iv) ~~concentrating said second over-spray paint so as to provide second concentrated paint~~; and

(x) (viii) receiving said second concentrated paint in said concentrated paint bath.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein storing said concentrated paint includes storing said first concentrated paint as stored first concentrated paint, and storing said second concentrated paint as stored second concentrated paint, and

reusing said ~~excess~~ stored concentrated paint includes reusing said stored first concentrated paint and said stored second concentrated paint.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising: prior to reusing said stored first concentrated paint ~~or~~ and said stored second concentrated paint, using computer-color-matching equipment to determine a spectral reflection factor of concentrated paint in said concentrated paint bath.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, further comprising: prior to reusing said stored first concentrated paint ~~or~~ and said stored second concentrated paint, using said spectral reflection factor to prepare additional aqueous paint having a color that is based on the same combination of pigments as that of said stored first and second concentrated paint ~~paints in said concentrated paint bath~~.

Claim 20 (cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:
prior to reusing said ~~excess~~ stored concentrated paint, using computer-color-matching
equipment to determine a spectral reflection factor of said ~~excess~~ stored concentrated paint.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:
prior to reusing said ~~excess~~ stored concentrated paint, using said spectral reflection factor to
prepare additional aqueous paint having a color that is based on the same combination of pigments
as that of said ~~excess~~ stored concentrated paint.

23. (New) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:
prior to reusing said stored concentrated paint, color-toning said stored concentrated paint
by combining with said stored concentrated paint fresh paint having the same combination of
pigments as that of said stored concentrated paint.

24. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein
using said spectral reflection factor to prepare additional aqueous paint having a color that
is based on the same combination of pigments as that of said stored concentrated paint comprises
color-toning said stored concentrated paint by combining with said stored concentrated paint fresh
paint having the same combination of pigments as that of said stored concentrated paint.

25. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein
preparing additional aqueous paint having a color that is based on the same combination of
pigments as that of said concentrated paint comprises color-toning said stored concentrated paint by
combining with said stored concentrated paint fresh paint having the same combination of pigments
as that of said stored concentrated paint.

26. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein
using said spectral reflection factor to prepare additional aqueous paint having a color that is based on the same combination of pigments as that of said stored first and second concentrated paints comprises color-toning said stored first and second concentrated paint by combining with said stored first and second concentrated paints fresh paint having the same combination of pigments as that of said stored first and second concentrated paints.

27. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein
using said spectral reflection factor to prepare additional aqueous paint having a color that is based on the same combination of pigments as that of said stored concentrated paint comprises color-toning said stored concentrated paint by combining with said stored concentrated paint fresh paint having the same combination of pigments as that of said stored concentrated paint.